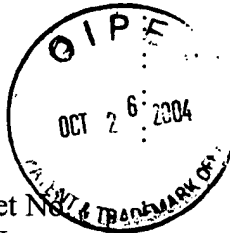


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

App. Serial No. : 09/731,418  
Applicants : Manczak, et al.  
Filed : December 5, 2000  
Art Unit : 2171  
Examiner : Nguyen, Thanh T.  
Atty. Docket No. : 2502863-991140  
Customer No. : 26379



**RECEIVED**

OCT 29 2004

Technology Center 2100

Title: **SYMMETRICAL SHARED STORAGE SYSTEM**

*I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as FIRST CLASS MAIL in an envelope addressed to: M/S AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on:*

Date: October 22, 2004

Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jan Huss".

Jan Huss

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

Sir/Madam:

Applicants respond to the outstanding Office action mailed on April 22, 2004 as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 8 of this paper.